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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CHAUCIE'S PLACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TO BE RECOGNIZED  
FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
LOCAL CRIME VICTIMS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, will recognize the efforts of RITA JOHNSON, Executive Director of Chaucie's Place, a family advocacy center located in Carmel, Indiana. In honor of National Crime Victim's Rights Week which is April 10-16th, the presentation will take place Thursday, April 14, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. at Chaucie's Place, 1118 W. Main Street, Carmel, Indiana.

This is a special award given annually by the United States Attorney's Office to honor an individual who unselfishly gives of his or her time and efforts to better the lives of crime victims in the Southern District of Indiana. It especially reflects the nation's recent heightened

awareness of the devastating impact of crime and violence on its victims, while underscoring the importance of helping victims heal and rebuild their lives.

Ms. Johnson has gone above and beyond what her job has required of her in her tireless quest for the best to offer child victims and their families in Hamilton County. She conducted a series of public speaking engagements to various organizations, including church groups and schools, creating a strong outpouring of community support and recognition for the center. Johnson's efforts have created an environment in which victims are interviewed in a warm and welcoming atmosphere which helps put children at ease during a difficult time for them. Child victims interviewed at the center are able to select a Build-A-Bear to take home and they are able to trace their hand print on the walls at Chaucie's Place.

Rita has spear-headed many fund raising activities for Chaucie's Place. She is a faculty instructor for Finding Words, Indiana, and also presents the Body Safety program (a good touch/bad touch type of program) to schools in Carmel and Westfield.

The motto of Chaucie's Place is "the child comes first", and with every training Rita implements, with every speech she delivers, and with every appearance she makes, her message is clear: The child comes first.

The U.S. Attorney's Award was established in 1991 to recognize those persons who have made significant contributions in the lives of crime victims.

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